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**STANDARD & POOR'S ANALYST AND TWO OTHERS PLEAD GUILTY
TO FEDERAL INSIDER TRADING CHARGES IN MANHATTAN**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, today announced that RICK MARANO, a former life insurance analyst and director at Standard & Poor's ("S&P"), pled guilty last Friday in Manhattan federal court to conspiracy and securities fraud charges, and that RICK MARANO's brother, WILLIAM MARANO, and CARL LOIZZII, a close family friend, pled guilty today to a conspiracy charge and a securities fraud charge, respectively. The charges against all three arose from their participation in an insider trading scheme in which RICK MARANO, in his capacity as an S&P analyst and director, obtained inside information about acquisitions that certain of S&P's clients were contemplating and passed that information on to WILLIAM MARANO and CARL LOIZZII.

According to an Indictment previously filed against RICK MARANO, WILLIAM MARANO and CARL LOIZZII, as well as statements made by all three in connection with their guilty pleas, beginning in April 2000, RICK MARANO agreed to leak

confidential information about Standard & Poor's and its clients that RICK MARANO received in his capacity as an S&P analyst in advance of any public disclosures of that information. RICK MARANO worked from 1997 to August 2001 for S&P, a Manhattan-based company that, among other things, engages in the business of rating the credit of various companies in the United States and abroad, including companies engaged in or contemplating mergers and acquisitions.

In April 2000, RICK MARANO learned that one of S&P's clients, ING Groep ("ING"), was meeting with other S&P life insurance analysts to discuss confidentially its proposed acquisition of Reliastar Life Insurance Company for approximately \$5 billion. Within an hour after that meeting, according to the Indictment, RICK MARANO purchased several thousand dollars worth of Reliastar call options and shares before the public release of this information, sold all of those Reliastar securities immediately after the public announcement of ING's acquisition of Reliastar on May 1, 2000, and reaped thousands of dollars in profits.

In addition, in April 2001, RICK MARANO attended a meeting on behalf of S&P in which American International Group ("AIG") confidentially discussed with him and other members of the Standard & Poor's Life Insurance Group its proposed acquisition of American General Corporation, a life insurance

company. According to the Indictment, RICK MARANO tipped WILLIAM MARANO and CARL LOIZZZI about the non-public proposed acquisition. The morning following AIG's meeting with Standard & Poor's, on April 3, 2001, WILLIAM MARANO and LOIZZZI purchased blocks of American General call options. They sold all of those options immediately after the public announcement of AIG's acquisition on April 4, 2001, and, as they stated during their guilty pleas, together reaped thousands of dollars in profit.

On the conspiracy count to which they pled guilty, RICK MARANO and WILLIAM MARANO each faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, and a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense. On the securities fraud count to which they pled guilty RICK MARANO and CARL LOIZZZI each faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$1 million fine, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense.

RICK MARANO, 51, lives in Westfield, New Jersey.

WILLIAM MARANO, 49, lives in Van Nuys, California.

CARL LOIZZZI, 51, also lives in Van Nuys, California.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case. Mr. KELLEY also expressed gratitude to the SEC as well as The McGraw-Hills Companies, S&P's parent company, for their assistance in this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney RAY LOHIER is in charge of the prosecution.

